

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A first layer is a water- and gas-proof layer, hereafter referred to as "collector layer", and also referred to in the art as "bipolar plate". This collector layer avoids gas or water leakage from one cell to an other, and guides electrons ( $e^-$ ) to or from the cell. Therefore ~~Therefor~~ it is generally known to use a conductive plate, usually a graphite plate.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The  $H^+$  are provided or evacuated via the PEM to the electrochemical reaction. Therefore ~~Therefor~~, the contact between contact layer and PEM is to be as perfect as possible, since the electrochemical reaction takes place at the catalytic layer, which is close to the surface of the PEM.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The  $e^-$  are provided or evacuated via the stack of collector layer, diffusion layer and contact layer. Therefore ~~Therefor~~, all layers engaged are to be electro-conductive, and the resistance over the stack, and especially the contact resistance at the contacts of the several layers is to be as low as possible.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The diffusion layer may comprise one or more metal meshes or expanded metal sheets or sheets of foamed metal. Meshes is to be understood as woven, knitted or braided metal wires, combined into a sheet using known knitting, weaving or braiding techniques. Meshes are also to be understood as welded mesh. The wires, used to provide a metal mesh have preferably a diameter of 0.5 mm to 1 [[to1]] mm. The thickness of the mesh is preferably between 1 mm and 2 mm. Most preferably, an open mesh is used, having an open area larger than 30%. The open area of a mesh is calculated as:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

This layer, hereafter referred to as anchoring layer, comprises metal fibers which preferably but not necessarily are bundle ~~are bundle~~ drawn and which have an equivalent diameter of 22 mm. The layer has a thickness of 0.4 mm, a weight of 300 g/m.sup.2 and a porosity of 87%.